

Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department  
Board of Health  
April 20, 2021

A quorum was present

**Board Members:**

Dr. Darryl Bindschadler  
Sue Hume  
Gus Lopez  
Dr. Lorie Chesnut  
Dr. Brad Kincheloe

**Others in Attendance:**

Troy Thompson (Zoom)	Kasey Mullins
Dr. Kathy Emmons	Jennifer Escobedo
Dee Determann	Trudy Eisele (Zoom)
Dr. Stan Hartman	Emily Robinette

Dr. Bindschadler called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

The agenda was unanimously accepted.

Mrs. Hume requested that Commissioner White be changed to Councilman White on the minutes. Mr. Lopez moved to accept the minutes, with changes, which was seconded by Dr. Chesnut and was unanimously accepted.

Mrs. Eisele covered the Treasurer's report for March 2021, with an ending balance of \$2,822,073.64. She explained that Dr. Emmons and herself had met and decided not to move additional funds out of the checking account into the Government Investment Account. This decision was based on having three to four months in the checking account was appropriate. The treasurer's report was moved by Mrs. Hume and seconded by Mr. Lopez.

Ms. Determann covered the revenues of \$480,043.56 and expenses of \$730,354.95. She explained that the expenses were high as approximately \$300,000 was sent back to the State for overpayment of Federal COVID Grant.

Dr. Bindschadler inquired on the Temporary Employee line item at 1,350.30%. Ms. Determann explained that we have hired many temporary workers for COVID contact tracing and COVID administration that was not anticipated when the budget was created. Dr. Bindschadler inquired on the Misc. Reimbursement expense at 64,857.31%. Ms. Determann stated that she would need to verify that expense. It has since been determined that this is the expense line item that was used to return \$310,422.19 to the Wyoming Department of Health and \$11,566.46 to Wyoming State Land and Investments for overpayment of COVID grants. He also inquired on the Interpreter Expense at 246.94%. Ms. Determann explained that with COVID-19 contact tracing and immunizations, we have had to use the interpreter more than expected. Lastly, he inquired on the Contracted Services. She explained that the high amount was that

Haugen Inc. was not included in our original budget. Haugen Inc. is the company that we hired to look at improving our billing procedures in Family Planning and Nursing.

The revenues and expenses were moved by Mrs. Hume, seconded by Dr. Kincheloe and passed unanimously.

#### **Contract/Agreements:**

Dr. Emmons introduced the Title X Contract between Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department and Wyoming Health Council for \$116,365.00. Mrs. Mullins stated that the contract went up approximately \$10,000 from last year, as other organizations were no longer applying for the grant.

Mrs. Mullins introduced Amendment 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding between Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division and Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department. The purpose of the amendment is to reduce the total Maternal and Child Health (MCH) state general funds dollar amount by \$27,842.00. This also amends the responsibilities of the County by replacing the Statement of Work. She covered that there are two funding sources for MCH. Part of the funding comes from state general funds, which cover non-TANIF, and federal funding for the TANIF portion. The contract is being reduced due to the shortfall in the state general funds.

The contract pays for salaries but does not cover benefits. The benefits are paid from City and County funds that are allocated to the Health Department. This also covers curriculum specific items, which are incentives for client to participate.

Mr. Lopez inquired if we have the staff to meet all of the deliverables. Mrs. Mullins informed him that the MCH program is fully staffed.

Dr. Chesnut inquired if we could still meet all of the deliverables with the reduction of funds. Mrs. Mullins replied that we would be able to meet the deliverables. The MCH program is transitioning to MESCH, which changes the age requirements from 3 years to years, and they are unable to enroll babies after 8 weeks from date of birth.

With the current employees and requirements, they are able to grow the program. Two of the employees are lactation consultants, one has tested and awaiting test results, and the fourth is working on the lactation-training curriculum.

Dr. Chesnut asked Mrs. Mullins if she felt the MESCH program was a positive change. Mrs. Mullins replied that the program is very structured and evidence based. She has received positive feedback from the nurses and they are excited.

Mr. Lopez moved the contract, which was seconded by Mrs. Hume and passed unanimously.

#### **Information for the Board:**

Dr. Emmons briefed the Board that we have changed the format of the revenue and expense reports, which allows the report to be more easily read and flows better. Dr. Bindschadler appreciated the change and Mr. Lopez stated it flows better.

Mr. Lopez pointed out that the Grants and the Non Grants reports have duplicate numbers. Ms. Determann explained that the Non Grants report only has the five departments: Administration, Operations, Environmental Health, Nursing and Family Planning. The Grants report had all the departments in addition to all the grants. Dr. Emmons clarified that we are still working on the reporting.

Dr. Emmons briefed that the COVID immunization clinic has been moved to a wonderful location. One of our volunteers, Teri Wolf, suggested the location and Mrs. Mullins called Maurice Brown and inquired if he would donate the space, which they agreed to as well as the electricity. We did do a vaccination clinic at the Emmerson building and it was a challenging location. Being able to go from the Emmerson building to the new building is wonderful and it is working very well. It is good to go to the new location and see all the volunteers. However, our numbers are starting to decline.

Mr. Lopez inquired on who coordinates the volunteers and Dr. Emmons replied that Peter Demaree is working with the administration volunteers and Mrs. Mullins is working with the medical volunteers.

Dr. Emmons briefed that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been paused and we are expecting more information on Friday. We are also expecting further guidance on vaccines for ages 12 – 16 in approximately 6 weeks. We have been receiving many 16 – 18 year olds getting vaccinations.

LCSD#2 has requested a waiver on mask requirements and that request will go to Dr. Harrist. Dr. Hartman and Dr. Emmons attended the LCSD#1 board meeting on the mask requirements. Dr. Hartman recommended against lifting the mandate as we are still in yellow and not yet in green. He will discuss with Dr. Harrist for additional thoughts.

Dr. Emmons presented the new user-friendly COVID-19 web page. It covers orders and updates, sick or exposed, business resources, and additional resources. Mr. Lopez inquired if we would be able to modify the web site when COVID is over. Dr. Emmons responded that Ms. Robinette could make changes to the web site.

Dr. Chesnut inquired on the vaccines that we currently have. Mrs. Mullins replies that we have 1,300 doses of Johnson & Johnson of which 500 were scheduled for last Friday. Since the Johnson & Johnson was put on hold, we called all 500 and was able to schedule about 250 for the Pfizer vaccine. We did decline all vaccines last week to ensure we could get out what we currently have. By declining the additional doses, those doses can be allocated to areas that need them. Currently, Providers are able to order their own vaccine and starting in May, we will be able to order smaller amounts of the vaccine. With the ability to order smaller amounts and the change of the cooling requirements, more area will be able to order the Pfizer vaccine.

Dr. Harman inquired if there are still six doses per vial. Mrs. Mullins replied that there are still six doses per vial. However, Moderna is going to 15 doses per vial, which may result in more loss. Towards the end of each day, if we have extra doses, we start calling around to have people come in to be vaccinated.

Dr. Emmons briefed that there is a lawsuit going around Wyoming. She has communicated with Mark Voss who stated he could not defend Dr. Hartman in the lawsuit. There has been a request to dismiss the lawsuit but if the lawsuit goes to court, we will have to hire an attorney to represent Dr. Hartman.

We are looking at a new storage facility that we will share with EMS. This building will replace our current bioterrorism storage that we are renting. There was a design, for the building, made last year. Since then, the Commissioners have requested a redesign to increase the square footage. The building is a big garage with six big bay doors and storage. The county is looking at putting the building on the 6<sup>th</sup> penny ballot in November and will save money in the long run. Dr. Bindschadler requested that they try to categorize with other like items on the ballot. Commissioner Thompson replied that big projects will be stand-alone and others will be grouped with like items.

Mrs. Hume inquired on where the building would be located. Dr. Emmons responded that it would be at the Archer Complex. The current location is close to the refinery and railroad tracks where disasters may happen. Mr. Lopez commented that this project has been looked at for the last 10 years and the new building will take it out of the red zone.

Dr. Hartman and Dr. Emmons have been working with CFD and they are doing a great job. Mr. Kroeger is meeting with the new food vendors is very optimistic. CFD has been working with the University of Nebraska and came up with a plan to operate with COVID. Dr. Chesnut inquired if the concerts were going to be mask less. Dr. Emmons replied that yes they would be. The concerns are with the Party Zone, Bucking A and the vendors under the stands.

Dr. Emmons briefed that the legislative session just wrapped up. House bill 109 was approved that allows advanced practitioners such as Nurse Practitioners or Physician Assistant to hold the position of the County Health Officer. This bill may help in smaller areas in the State.

House bill 127 will require that the Governor will now hire the State Health Officer. This position will serve both the Governor and the State. It added stipulation that any order issued that restricts movements/isolation should be in effect for not more than 10 days. Any subsequent order can only be issued by the Governor and can not to exceed 60 days. This bill has not yet been signed and the Governor has until next Thursday to sign.


There was a bill for a task force to examine the pandemic but it did not go anywhere.

The Ag bill allows home cooked meals, but the USDA does not allow meat. Environmental Health is looking at ways to stop people from selling food items, such as tacos, on Facebook.

Adjourned at 1308.



Dr. Darryl Bindschadler, President



Gus Lopez, Secretary